



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women's & Children's Health Section

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June 10, 2002

CACFP 02-32

MEMORANDUM

TO: Institutions Participating in the Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP)

FROM: Arnette Cowan, MS, RD, LDN
Supervisor, Special Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Obligation of Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes to Offer Infant Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (226.20-25)

We have received further clarification from USDA concerning the obligation of Child Care Centers and Family Day Care Homes to offer infant meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Day care centers and homes participating in the CACFP must offer program meals to all eligible children who are enrolled for care in their facilities. We are providing this explanation to ensure that all children, including infants, who are enrolled for child care have access to CACFP meals.

A facility may not avoid this obligation by stating that the infants are not "enrolled" in CACFP or by citing some logistical or cost barrier to offering an infant meal. Decisions on offering program meals must be based on whether the child is enrolled for care, not whether the child is enrolled for CACFP. Section 226.2 of the CACFP regulations defines an enrolled child as "a child whose parent or guardian has submitted to an institution a signed document which indicates that the child is enrolled for child care."

As long as the infant is in care during the meal service period, the facility must offer the infant a meal that complies with program requirements. As with all children in CACFP facilities, an infant's parent or guardian may decline what is offered and supply the infant's meals instead. The key factor is that the infant must be provided access to CACFP meals. Institutions found not to adhere to this policy will be out of compliance with 7C.F.R. 226.

If you have questions, please contact your regional consultant.

AC/clg

cc: SNP Staff
Auditors